

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A polypeptide immunogen consisting of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, or a sequence that differs from SEQ ID NO: 1 by up to 15 amino acid alterations, wherein said polypeptide immunogen provides protective immunity against *S. aureus*.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The polypeptide immunogen of claim 1, wherein said polypeptide immunogen consists of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a sequence differing from SEQ ID NO: 1 by up to 10 amino acid alterations.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The polypeptide immunogen of claim 1, wherein said polypeptide immunogen consists ~~essentially of (a)~~ amino acids 3-260 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and up to 15 additional amino acids at the carboxyl or amino terminus; or (b) amino acids 3-264 of SEQ ID NO: 2 and up to 15 additional amino acids at the carboxyl or amino terminus.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The polypeptide immunogen of claim 3, wherein said polypeptide immunogen consists of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A composition able to induce a protective immune response in a patient comprising:

a) an immunologically effective amount of [[An]] an immunogen consisting of: (i) a polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a sequence differing from SEQ ID NO: 1 by up to 15 amino acid alterations, wherein said polypeptide provides protective immunity against *S. aureus*, and (ii) one or more additional regions or moieties covalently joined to said polypeptide at the carboxyl terminus or the amino terminus, wherein each region or moiety is different from [[an]] a sai-1 polypeptide region and is independently selected from a region or moiety having at least one of the following properties: enhances the immune response, facilitates purification, or facilitates polypeptide stability;

wherein said sai-1 polypeptide region is present on a sequence found in a *S. aureus* polypeptide sequence having at least 30 contiguous amino acids as provided in SEQ ID NO: 1; and

b) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 6 (canceled):

Claim 7 (currently amended): The composition of claim 5 [[6]], wherein said composition further comprises an adjuvant.

Claims 8-18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (previously presented): The polypeptide immunogen of claim 1, wherein said polypeptide immunogen is substantially purified.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The polypeptide immunogen of claim 19, wherein said polypeptide immunogen is at least 99% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The polypeptide immunogen of claim 19, wherein said polypeptide immunogen consists of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a sequence differing from SEQ ID NO: 1 by up to 10 amino acid alterations.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The polypeptide immunogen of claim 19, wherein said polypeptide immunogen consists of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a sequence differing from SEQ ID NO: 1 by up to 5 amino acid alterations.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The polypeptide immunogen of claim 19, wherein said polypeptide immunogen consists of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a sequence differing from SEQ ID NO: 1 by up to 1 amino acid alteration.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The polypeptide immunogen of claim 19, wherein said polypeptide immunogen consists essentially of (a) amino acids 3-260 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and up to

15 amino acids at the carboxyl or amino terminus or (b) amino acids 3-264 of SEQ ID NO: 2 and up to 15 amino acids at the carboxyl or amino terminus.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The polypeptide immunogen of claim 19, wherein said polypeptide immunogen consists of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 26 (previously presented): A composition comprising an immunologically effective amount of a polypeptide immunogen consisting of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a sequence that differs from SEQ ID NO: 1 by up to 15 amino acid alterations and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein said polypeptide immunogen provides protective immunity against a *S. aureus*.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The composition of claim 26, wherein said polypeptide immunogen is substantially purified.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The composition of claim 27, wherein said polypeptide immunogen consists of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a sequence that differs from SEQ ID NO: 1 by up to 10 amino acid alterations, and said polypeptide provides protective immunity against *S. aureus* COL.

Claim 29 (currently amended): The composition of claim 28, wherein said polypeptide immunogen consists of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a sequence that differs from SEQ ID NO: 1 by ~~with~~ up to 5 amino acid alterations.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The composition of claim 27, wherein said polypeptide immunogen consists of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a sequence that differs from SEQ ID NO: 1 by up to 1 amino acid alteration.

Claim 31 (currently amended): The composition of claim 27, wherein said polypeptide immunogen consists ~~essentially of (a)~~ amino acids 3-260 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and up to 15 amino acids at the carboxyl or amino terminus; or (b) amino acids 3-264 of SEQ ID NO: 2 and up to 15 amino acids at the carboxyl or amino terminus.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The composition of claim 27, wherein said polypeptide immunogen consists of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 33 (new): The composition of claim 5, wherein said polypeptide consists of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a sequence that differs from SEQ ID NO: 1 by with up to 5 amino acid alterations.

Claim 34 (new): The composition of claim 33, wherein said polypeptide consists of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.